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September 2004, Vol. 12 Number 1

**AIDS
Walk**

2004

**Pg's
4 & 5**

Fun

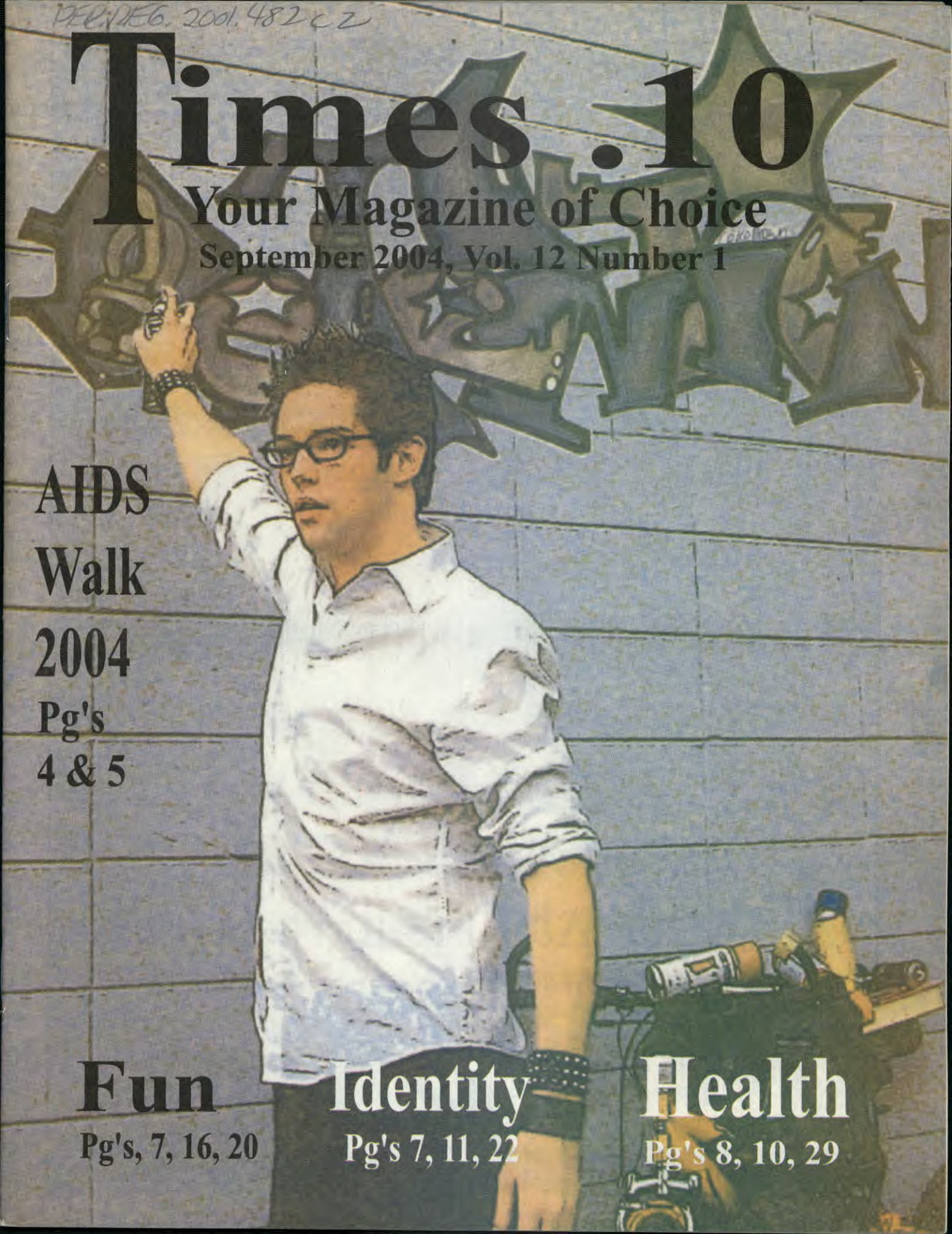
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UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIV EDMONTON

The Walk, The Talk, and Rainbow Community Health
Robert Wm. Smith

There are two important annual events coming up at HIV Edmonton that you might want to participate in; the HIV/AIDS Walk for Life and the 3rd Annual Edmonton Rainbow Community Health Forum. In Edmonton, the AIDS Walk, as it was once known, was started by the Gay & Lesbian community thirteen years ago and the Health Forum had it's first push from HIV Edmonton and GLCCE three years ago.

13th HIV/AIDS Walk for Life Why Walk?

HIV Edmonton has noticed over the past six years or more that the number of walkers representing the Gay & Lesbian community has diminished considerably. For some, this might be a conscious decision to not take part, some might not believe that HIV/AIDS is not about them any longer, and some might be all walked out with the HIV/AIDS walk becoming just another of dozens that are held every year for every conceivable cause.

HIV Edmonton would like you to reconsider and join us this year on September 19th at City Hall with renewed commitment; and here are some reasons why.

HIV has not left the gay/bisexual/MSM population. In the first three months of 2004, the numbers of newly infected men in Edmonton and Alberta is reported at 38% of all new

infections. Though down for the same period in 2003 (41%) the rate is double that of 2002 (19%). So, provincially, that works out to 12 new cases in the 2004 three-month period to add to the 244 cases tracked since March 1998. Another 25 of our brothers since 1998 have identified being gay/bi/MSM who inject drugs.

Don't let out a sigh of relief at those numbers. In 2002, approximately 70,000 HIV tests were conducted in Alberta, some of those repeat. We calculated that to be about 2% of the population with the repeats. We presume as well that the percentage of gay men testing will be higher than the general population however, not more than 8-10%. You do the math. If there was even another 10% of gay/bi/MSM tested for HIV we could very well see a doubling of those numbers. We just don't know folks.

In Alberta, gay/bisexual/MSM still account for 72.3% (840) of all reported AIDS cases, while another 7.6% (67) are also injection drug users. Many of these men are healthy, but there were still 30 deaths from AIDS in 2003, 17 in Calgary alone. Not all these deaths were gay/bi/MSM but the numbers suggest that many were.

A glaring reality that jumps off the graph is that the overwhelming majority of the men with HIV/AIDS are between the ages of 30 and 59 years (75% or 201 with HIV, 79% or 664 with AIDS). That certainly

isn't to say that the younger men are free and clear. They aren't! There are a total of 27% (72) with HIV and 18% (155) of our young men between the ages of 20 and 29 years with full-blown AIDS.

How does this affect you? Do you remember how many deaths there were in the 80's and early 90's? If you had 50 friends at the onset of the AIDS epidemic in 1980-82, it is likely most of them had died by 1990. Do we want this to happen again?

The HIV/AIDS Walk for Life is just that, a walk in support of those living with HIV/AIDS and their continued health. A walk as a fund-raiser not only helps organizations like HIV Edmonton and Living Positive to fund initiatives aimed at curbing the continued infections and providing support to the many hundreds

who already have it, the walk also acknowledges the continued presence of this disease in our midst. As a marketing tool, the Walk for Life brings focus to HIV/AIDS and the testament of having hundreds walk in support of the cause helps to wear away at the ongoing and very real stigma and discrimination that surrounds the disease. As a walker, you show you care.

So, as an individual or more entertaining, as a group, please call Paula at 488-5742, ext 240 and get her to send you a pledge form. Take it with you everywhere, twist arms, threat and humiliate your friends into sponsoring you and take a Walk for Life. Challenge each other or challenge other groups and compete for the many prizes

donated to make this event even more rewarding.

See you all September 18th at City Hall at 10:00 am and bring your friends.

3rd Annual Edmonton Rainbow Community Health Forum

October 2, 2004
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

HIV Edmonton hosted two very successful Rainbow Health Forums in 2002 and 2003; and have been encouraged to hold another. This will be an all day Saturday event, totally free with lunch provided. The forum is being held on the University of Alberta campus (the room will be announced in early September). We are hoping to cover the gambit of social, health and wellness issues

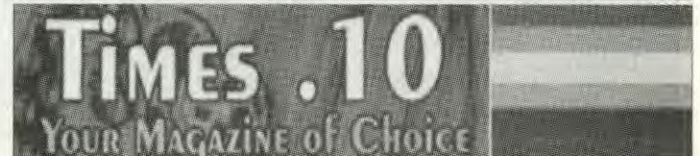
experienced by the Gay & Lesbian community from a positive and forward looking perspective. At the end of the day, it is our hope that we will have a relatively clear understanding of the breadth of the issues we face with hopefully one or two suggestions on how we should move forward as a community.

Edmonton's GLBTT community is going through a huge adjustment presently with the closing of GLCCE and the struggle to open the Pride Centre of Edmonton. Hopefully, this forum will help you help them and us create a level playing field in the services currently available (or not) to our community.

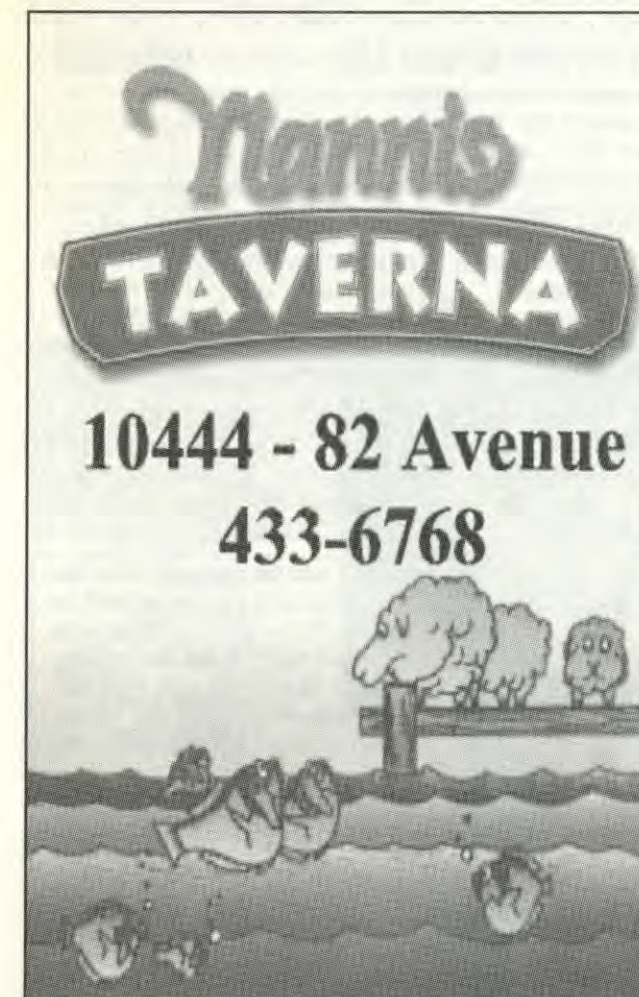
Please call Robert at 488-5742, ext 230 or email men@hivedmonton.com for more information and to register.

Your participation in this forum is recommended and would be greatly appreciated.

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"GEORGE W. BUSH: 'YOU'RE FIRED'"

"Equality trumps discrimination," quipped HRC President Cheryl Jacques. WASHINGTON - Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, four large billboard trucks with the message "George W. Bush: You're Fired" will drive through the streets of Manhattan the week of the Republican National Convention. "Equality trumps discrimination," quipped HRC President. "We're hitting the streets with the message that the chief advocate of the discriminatory Federal Marriage Amendment doesn't belong in public office." The four trucks will roam the streets of Manhattan from Aug. 31,

2004, to Sept. 3, 2004, on 8-hour shifts, each sending the message that no one who tries to put discrimination in the Constitution should hold the Oval Office. HRC will spend upwards of \$10 million on election-related activity this cycle - both to educate and turn out our supporters, and to fight attempts by the extreme right-wing to use marriage rights for same-sex couples as a 'wedge' issue. HRC plans to endorse more than 200 fair-minded leaders for president, U.S. Senate and House, and plans to spend over \$1.3 million in Political Action Committee

funds. HRC is the largest contributor of PAC funds in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community, and is also the largest funder of GOP campaigns among gay and lesbian PACs. HRC is also running an independent expenditure campaign to educate our community about what is at stake in this election.

In October 2003, HRC's Board of Directors amended HRC's PAC criteria in October 2003, pledging only to support candidates who would vote to protect the U.S. Constitution from

amendments that would discriminate against individuals or couples.

"We have drawn a line in the sand when it comes to putting discrimination in the Constitution," added Jacques. The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country.

It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that gay and lesbian Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

NAKED BOYS SINGING!

Naked Boys Singing!, the Off-Broadway hit sensation, is moving again! Following the trail of the "Off-Broadway theater tour" of shows like Menopause: the Musical, and Forbidden Broadway, NBS! is packing up its hot shorts and piano and is leaving its current location at Theater Four, 424 West 55th Street, and moving into the John Houseman on Theater Row, 450 West 42nd Street, between 10th & Dyer's Avenues in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen.

Not only is the location changing: NBS! will be going into a new weekly performance schedule as well as new, updated visuals from Lighting Designer Aaron Copp, and Set / Costumes Designer, Carl D. White.

The new performance schedule will be Friday evenings at 10:30 PM, Saturday at 6:00 PM and 10:30 PM to rotate with the Houseman's current hit production, Toxic Audio. Tickets will still be available by calling Tele-Charge at 212.239.6200 or for groups, call the NBS! group sales line at 212.302.4848 x 20. Tickets for rows A & B are \$65; rows C - J, \$50; and K - M \$35.

The John Houseman is a 287 - Seat Theater, located at 450 West 42nd Street. Its current production is Toxic Audio, created and directed by René Ruiz, who also provides the bass vocals

for the group. The five vocalists in Toxic Audio use no instruments other than the human voice to create complex sonic textures, rhythmic drumbeats, thumping bass lines and searing guitar-like solos in their performance of contemporary pop songs, timeless classics, jazz-scat and vocally-orchestrated original compositions. The show is presented by the John Houseman Theater Center in association with Castle Talent, Inc.

Tom Smedes, Producer, says, "It's a perfect home for NBS! and Toxic Audio, as both shows showcase exemplary forms of the human voice: NBS! takes it a step further by combining the voice with the male form."

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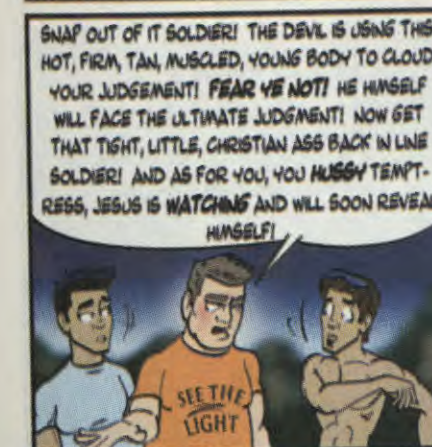
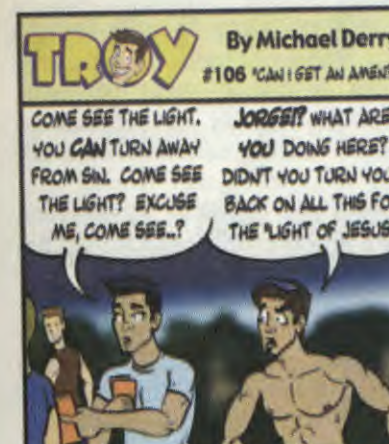
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A Thank You



By Dennis Cambly
Managing Editor

A few weeks ago on a late August Sunday afternoon, Joey Gierulski and I decided to go for a typical bicycle ride. Going for a bike ride has been a fun experience for many years just to get away from everything for a few hours.

We traveled a route that has been almost habitual for hundreds of times if not nearly a thousand. This however, was not to be a typical bike ride. As I wheeled down around one of the corners near the Glenora Club a pile of gravel on the trail left me speechless. I braked but there was no stopping as I hit the gravel and became a human missile landing with a thud on my back. I landed on

the pavement on the other side of the gravel braking nine different bones along my right side.

With the help of someone from the Glenora Club Joey was able to get an ambulance to assist me. I have no idea who you are at the Club but thank you for taking the time to help a stranger. Your towel from the club is most likely still at the University of Alberta Hospital.

There are two stories wound into this one article so I ask you to be kind enough to follow along with me. I am still taking painkillers and approaching the computer keyboard is a challenge.

Once I was into the ambulance the E.M.S. paramedic kept me talking and we found that we had a mutual friend in the late Greg Bamford. The paramedic was kind and did what ever was needed to keep me awake. I remember your face as I was laying there while you and I did not know that one of my lungs had been punctured and had collapsed. I do not know how many people ever say thank you for the work you do, for those of us when we need you; so here is my thank you.

I have never stayed in a hospital for more than a

few hours so I had only the word of other people. My thoughts were far from a news headline as I lay on a hospital bed. The morphine was dripping through my veins keeping me from knowing my own situation. I do remember many of your faces while you took care of me and I thank you even though you names are not available to me. Reality came slowly as Joey was sitting by my bedside telling me that everything was going to be okay. He stayed with me until the medical staff took me to the operating room. Okay Doctor Bouliane I do remember you telling me that I was in the best possible hands and it was rather humorous when you told me to be quiet and go to sleep and you would put me back together and this would be the end of my bicycle riding until next year. I must admit that you are what you said you were, and did a remarkable job too. Please stay here in Alberta because we need Doctors such as you to continue keeping us alive and well. Thank you for reminding me that without the helmet I would not be alive. Joey, thank you for being there when I awoke, it was a hell of a bike ride my friend.

We read news headlines about our medical system needing repair with

almost nauseating repetition, it repulses me. There is no need to tear apart something that is inherently good in order for it to work the same, but with less strain. As our political leaders keep feeding their egos by bashing a medical system that belongs to the people of Canada, the mainstream media should be ashamed of how they abandoned their role. They are not there to agree with reckless Premiers who come and go like a bad cold. Our medical system is made up of many people doing many tasks from every walk in life. You in the mainstream media are acting as reckless as those Premiers in need of a fix that is as bad as an addiction. The people that work within our medical system already have the answers so why do you not look to them?

To those who continue with the reckless attitude you have no room in the heart of one who was brought back from the land of the dead. All of the people that could perform such an exercise must be admired and given all they require. It is time to bury all the slings and arrows because they do not hold the answers.

My story is done and my mission moves forward again. Thank You is not enough but for now it is all I can say.

Court Chooses Confusion over Clarity on So-Called "Gay Marriage Amendment"

Today the Michigan Court of Appeals bypassed the State Board of Canvassers and approved ballot language intended to confuse voters and allow activist judges to interpret the so-called "gay marriage amendment" to also prohibit domestic partnerships, even those between a man and woman.

"The Court of Appeals had an opportunity to make sure the voters had a fair and accurate description of how this amendment will wipe out existing domestic partnership benefits, including those between a man and a woman," said Wendy Howell, Campaign

Manager for Coalition for a Fair Michigan. "Unfortunately, when voters read their ballot, they will read legalese meant to deceive keep them from knowing that this amendment will take away health and pension benefits from Michigan families, including those of a man and a woman."

In hearings before the State Board of Canvassers, the backers of this proposed amendment would not deny that they want this amendment to pass so they can attack domestic partner benefits. Furthermore, in their arguments before the Court of

Appeals, the proponents admitted that the meaning of "marriage or similar union for any purpose" is so unclear that it will have to be interpreted by the courts. Same-sex marriage is already against three Michigan laws.

"It's too bad the Court of Appeals has allowed the backers of this amendment to use deceptive legalese to try to trick the voters into banning domestic partnerships," said Howell. "By not clarifying the ballot language, the Court of Appeals has made it harder for voters to see what is hidden in this unnecessary

and cynical amendment." The Coalition for a Fair Michigan is a diverse group of organizations, leaders and voters around the state that have joined together to defeat a proposed amendment to the Michigan state constitution that would permanently ban any legal recognition of relationships other than opposite-sex marriage, including civil unions or domestic partnerships for unmarried heterosexual couples. It would also prohibit any form of domestic partnership benefits (such as health care and prescription benefits) from being offered to public-sector employees.

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*funds for this event are provided by ECALA
(Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association)*

"Speaking of 'Normal'"

By **Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW**
Clinical Social Worker
Provisional Chartered
Psychologist

Whilst I was poking through some old files a handout on maintaining and developing traditions emerged from a dusty corner. This handout is often useful with couples, but for each of us, it is interesting to look at what we do almost automatically that really is a tradition.

Tradition, the song made famous in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, was a lament for the old ways, which are often seen as valid just because things were done in that way in the past.

Yet tradition in personal life can be very different than the just because it has always been done that way philosophy. Creating new traditions for oneself and by extension for one's community is also an important aspect of relationship, providing a sense of structure, of predictability and thus of safety.

For example, those of us who went to university can recall being indoctrinated during "Fresh week", a time when newcomers learn to share an experience and thus a culture. In my day, we did *Shinerama*, shining shoes to raise money for charity.

The habit or custom still exists, and creates a common language and experience for all those who have attended Wilfred Laurier University. This activity provides an anchor for our experience. To this day I can't shine shoes or even see shoe polish in the store without a fleeting thought of *Shinerama* zipping by.

Perhaps one of the reasons lesbians and gay men want the right to marry, aside from the legal ones, is to be able to partake in the traditions that define the process. At lunch the other day, a friend and I laughed that we don't really want to marry, but the bridal showers would sure help to spruce up the house.

One part of each couple could register at the Bay, one part at Home Depot. Think of the loot! A new toaster, designed like the one I had as a kid, would be fine. A set of Royal Doulton dishes would be ok too. And the \$ provided in envelopes at the reception, well, it would not get used to get a house, at our age, it would be used to pay off the mortgage.

The tradition of marriage, and all its trappings (and I use the word "trappings" deliberately to note the economic/legal trap it often becomes) is attractive cause it allows we outsiders to be insiders. To be equal to "them". But enough politics for now. Tradition can be supportive, like knowing what to serve for Thanksgiving dinner, and it can be a trap. Tradition can force us to conform mindlessly and at the same time, to sense we belong to a certain way of living.

What traditions have you created for you? Do you always drink your coffee/tea from a certain mug? Would it be bothersome to lost that mug? Do you always change your bed sheets on Sundays? Why not Tuesdays? Do you

usually make brunch on Sundays? Or go to a certain restaurant on Thursday? Smoke the same cigarettes, drink the same rye? Complain about the same people, the same groups? We know about the Edmonton/Calgary rivalry. What others do you have – always driving a Honda?

September brings up lots of going back to school traditions. I always was sure this would be the year when my notebooks would be neat and tidy – they still aren't, but the tradition is still there. Now I think this is the year my office will be perfect – good luck – but the tradition continues.

Ralph Klein is good at tradition – cut budgets and then spend feverishly just before an election, to yet again fool the electorate. And traditionally, folks don't team and keep electing him and the boys.

Some destructive habits are so strong they might also be called traditions – always getting drunk at the club, being unfaithful, being abusive; these also are traditions. When we go to change them, we encounter

strong internal messages to keep on keeping on. That tells us we have tradition going. One that keeps us familiar to ourselves, and perhaps to others. One that works to define our sense of self and of our life.

So as school season arrives, take a moment to think about the traditions in your life – and think about altering the ones you are keeping just for their own sake. Maybe my real tradition is of having messy paperwork, and the thought of neatness is the illusion that keeps the real tradition alive. Interesting thought. Do you always pick up the tab for others in order to be seen as generous, or to mask the anxiety you feel?

Take a good look at the inner life of the traditions and then try to decide if it is worth keeping – or is it time for a modification? Would anyone really notice if you changed it? And how would your life be different if somehow you went from being a Calgary fan to an Edmonton fan, to being unfaithful to being faithful. After all, they are both just traditions.

All opinions in this column are those of the author alone. Any client related material is altered to protect identity. This column is not meant to replace consultation with a professionally accountable clinician.

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"Kill gays" concert cancelled in Birmingham

Following OutRage!'s submission of a dossier to the police, and the threat of gay rights protests, this Friday's concert by the Jamaican reggae star, Sizzla, has been called off, said Brett Lock of the London-based gay rights group OutRage!

This is a victory over homophobic violence. Lesbian and gay people have a right to live their lives without threats to kill them. Sizzla is a fizzer. His two main performances "Birmingham on Friday and London's Reggae in the Park on Sunday have been cancelled," added Mr. Lock. Sizzla advocates, shooting queers because, "they bring AIDS and disease upon people".

He was scheduled to play in Birmingham, England, at the White Pearl Club this Friday, September third 2004. Sizzla Kalonji (real name, Miguel Orlando Collins) is currently attempting a concert tour, in order to break into the lucrative UK music market.

His hit tune Pump Up has the line "Shot batty bwoy, my big gun boom (Shoot queers, my big gun goes boom)".

See Sizzla's full lyrics and stage comments below.

Batty bwoy is a derogatory Jamaican patois insult, similar to faggot, poof and queer. Sizzla has refused to apologize for his incitements to murder lesbians and gay men. At a concert in Chicago in April 2002 he told the audience: "I won't take back my words, I kill sodomites and queers, they bring AIDS and disease upon people, shoot and kill them".

Sizzla's "kill gays" songs are still in circulation. He has not withdrawn them. He is still profiting from his murder music.

Gay human rights group OutRage! Is now helping

coordinate a worldwide "Stop Murder Music" campaign, with the support of gay and human rights groups in dozens of cities.

"OutRage! Urges sponsors, promoters and venue owners to cancel Sizzla's concerts on the grounds that he incites the murder of gays and lesbians, and that his performance may lead to public disorder and to homophobic hate crimes," said Peter Tatchell of OutRage!

No one would give a platform to a singer who advocated killing black or Jewish people. A performer who brazenly glorifies and encourages the murder of lesbians and gay men should not be rewarded with concerts and financial success.

Securing the cancellation of Sizzla's concert is very important. By hitting him in the pocket, it will help pressure Sizzla and other anti-gay Jamaican singers to abandon their murderous incitements. Once they start losing money, they will soon drop their violent lyrics. Driving homophobia out of Jamaican music will have a huge positive impact on Jamaican culture and attitudes to the benefit of all lesbian and gay Jamaicans.

"In a free society, Sizzla has a right to criticize homosexuality. But he does not have a right to advocate the killing of lesbians and gay men. He has overstepped the mark. Free speech does not include the right to encourage the killing of other human beings.

Incitement to murder is a criminal offence. We want his all his concerts scrapped because he endorses violent hate crimes," said Mr. Tatchell. Inciting murder is a criminal offence under UK law. He is a threat to public order and could provoke hate violence against lesbians and gays.

"The Metropolitan Police and Crown Prosecution Service are currently conducting a criminal investigation into Sizzla Kalonji over allegations that their lyrics commit the criminal offence of incitement to murder," added Mr. Tatchell.

"Sizzla Kalonji does not merely express his disapproval of homosexuality. He calls for all homosexual to be killed and incite their listeners murder gays and lesbians. This goes way beyond an acceptable

expression of opinion. Lesbian and gay people have a right to live their lives free from threats to kill them," says Brett Lock of OutRage! and co-organizer of the Stop Murder Music campaign.

"No club would host a singer who promoted killing black or Jewish people or attacking religious minorities or the disabled. We ask all concert venues to adopt the same stance towards singers who incite the murder of lesbians and gay men," added Mr. Lock.



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Excellent Prospects

Some things are just too good to be true. Take my 'draw' at the end of the Spring Legislature for example. (There is a draw at the end of every legislative session, to determine the order in which Private Members' bills will be presented in the next session.)

The Liberal Opposition has five seats right now in the Alberta Legislature, the New Democrats, two. There are two vacancies, one Independent and 73 Conservatives. If any of us want the chance to present our bill, we have to hope we get in the top 10, but with 73 Conservatives also in the draw, the odds just aren't very good.

There is about a 13% chance that any given MLA will draw one of those top spots.

Miraculously, my colleagues and I drew four of the top 10 positions at the last draw! And that's where 'too good to be true' comes in. There is a 100% chance that an election will be called before the Spring session, and therefore a zero percent chance that we will be able to benefit from our good fortune in the draw!

- Fixed election dates
- Democratic reform
- Arts policy
- Natural gas policy
- Health care
- Minimum wage
- Post secondary access and tuition and
- Water protection.

Private Member's bills are the only opportunities that Opposition MLAs have to propose new laws so they generally mean more to us than they do to the government.

What do you think? Maybe you have a Private Members bill you'd like me to take to Caucus. Call or email me with your questions or comments. Phone 414-0743 or mail to blakeman@laurieblakeman.com.

Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archive Grows

Canadians will be able to learn more about the stories of Canada's gay and lesbian communities as a result of a new grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives is a registered charity that has preserved the stories and activities of the lesbian and gay communities since 1973. The Archives makes them its holdings available to everyone who is interested in a fuller picture of Canadian life and identity. Its physical and online collection is now one of the largest of its kind in the world.

The Archives is pleased to announce a grant of \$150,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The grant will help fund the relocation of the Archives to 34 Isabella Street, an historic property in the heart of the Church-Wellesley neighbourhood. It will enhance the Archives' fundraising activities and allow for the hiring of its first full-time employee. Until now, the Archives have developed their world-famous collection with volunteers only and without government aid.

The Archives is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario's casino initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social-service sectors.

The Archives is in a period of growth as it prepares to relocate to an historic building at 34 Isabella Street in Toronto in the heart of the Church-Wellesley neighbourhood. The Archives will cooperate with all parties to ensure that the project involving the historic building on its new quarters 34 Isabella Street will be the kind of cultural institution that the people of Ontario need. The work of the volunteers and the Archives' fund-raising campaign are ongoing. New volunteers and donors are welcome.

For more information, visit www.clga.ca or contact Gordon Davies at 416-465-9317.

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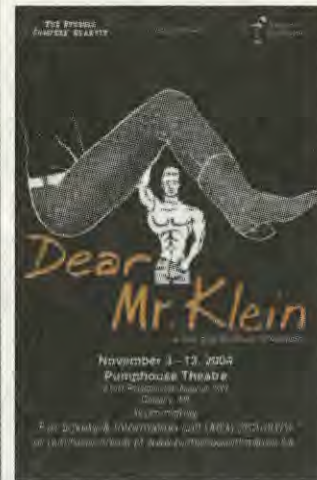
Dear Mr. Klein

Alberta's DeKlein Onstage in Calgary

Sex, politics, and the antics of an Alberta politician conspire onstage in Calgary in November 2004, to tell the story of one of Canada's most explosive human rights battles.

DEARMR. KLEIN, a new play written by Bruce Chambers, receives its world premiere Nov 3 - 13, 2004 from The Stubble Jumpers' Quartet (in association with Teatro Berdache, Calgary's gay and lesbian theatre ensemble) at Calgary's Pumphouse Theatre. Set against the notorious Vriend vs. Alberta case of 1998, where the Supreme Court of Canada ordered protection for gays and lesbians in Alberta's Human Right Code, Chambers' play tells the story of two men caught in the bigotry and misunderstandings following the court verdict.

The play is loosely based upon a chance encounter the playwright had in 1998. Chambers had written to Premier Ralph Klein, urging



him to support the court's decision. At the same time, a rural Albertan had written to the Klein, urging him to use

the "Notwithstanding Clause" to override the ruling. Personalized responses from the Premier's office were sent to both Chambers and the rural Albertan - but they fell into exactly opposite hands.

Calgary director Chris Cinnamon directs DEAR MR. KLEIN, with local actors Chad Nobert and Steve Gin appearing as "Roy" and "Christopher." Mandy Clarke stage-manages.

DEARMR. KLEIN is even timelier after the 2003 - 04 announcements from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and the Yukon, where the provinces' highest courts ruled bans on same sex marriage must be considered unconstitutional. The response from Alberta has once again been a threat to invoke the infamous "Notwithstanding Clause" to

exempt itself from the decision. The issue is expected to be hotly debated during Alberta's anticipated fall election, where Ralph Klein will be seeking re-election as Alberta Premier.

For more information on the production, please contact us at (403) 245-0127, or via email at Tberdache@aol.com. Advance tickets for DEAR MR. KLEIN may be purchased through the Pumphouse Theatre box office line at (403) 263-0079, through the website www.pumphousetheatres.com, or at the theatre itself at 2140 Pumphouse Avenue SW. Performances run at 8 p.m. nightly, with the exception of Monday November 8. Tickets are \$15, or \$12 for students seniors and the unwaged.

YOUNG DRIVERS OF CANADA OFFERS TIPS FOR DRIVERS AS KIDS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

With the kids returning to school drivers need to be more cautious. Close to 1,800 Canadian children and youths are hospitalized each year due to

pedestrian injuries. Young Drivers of Canada offers some advice to drivers:

- Be aware of school zone signage
- Reduce speed in school zones
- Wait for children to complete their crossing before proceeding
- Stop at least 20 meters behind a school bus when the upper red lights begin to flash
- Motorists traveling in both directions must stop for the school bus except if the road is divided by a median

- Be prepared: school buses stop at all railway crossings, but are not required to use the upper red lights

- If you are driving children to school drop them off in a safe area away from traffic - most schools have designated drop off zones

- Change lanes early for bicycles (they should be treated as

another vehicle by giving them ample space). Be vigilant many kids ride skateboards, scooters or roller blade on the road.

- Always leave in plenty of time to get to your destination - running late can cause aggressive driving behaviors.

We need to keep in mind that younger children often lack the skills to make safe judgments about traffic. Children are also physically smaller which makes it harder for drivers to see them and for them to see us. Young Drivers teaches that we should back in rather than out of driveways. The blind area to the rear of vehicle is much larger than the one to the front making it more difficult to see if there is a child behind your vehicle. Young Drivers also uses a technique called "Ground View". As you approach any vehicle you cannot see through, look for the feet of a pedestrian about to walk in front of you or for the wheels of a bicycle.

GLAAD UNVEILS 30-SECOND 'I DO' TV

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) today unveiled the winner of its "I DO" contest, a national advertising competition designed to promote equal marriage rights and protections for gay and lesbian families. GLAAD also today announced a partnership with Rock the Vote to take the ad and its message of marriage equality to young voters in key states.

"I Believe in Love" was created by Kyle Grote of West Jefferson, Ohio, with the help of his siblings Katie Stephenson and Tom Grote and producing partner Frank Koch. GLAAD will place the 30-second ad in select markets this fall. The ad can be viewed online at <http://www.idoin30seconds.org>.

"As millions of gays and lesbians see their lives reduced to a partisan political wedge issue, it's more important than ever that we open America's eyes to the reality of our families, the rights we lack and the protections we need," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "The Grote family's ad reaffirms the dignity, the value and the common humanity of our relationships. GLAAD is honored to be able to share this ad with people across the country."

"I Believe in Love" depicts a woman who traces her family's history of overcoming prejudice and discrimination against the backdrop of her own fight to marry the woman she loves. The ad closes with the recent quote by Vice President Dick Cheney: "Freedom means freedom for everyone."

"Making the spot was really a family project," says Kyle Grote, who, like his sister, Katie, is straight. "When our brother Tom came out 14 years ago, it really opened our eyes and our hearts. We've seen the intolerance he's faced, and it's strengthened our desire to support him. Creating this ad - putting a human face on such an important issue - gave us the opportunity to do just that."

To help promote the "I DO" campaign, GLAAD is also joining forces with Rock the Vote as an issue partner, taking the message of marriage equality to college campuses and promoting young voter turnout this November. The Rock the Vote tour begins Sept. 11, 2004 at Kent State University in Ohio. GLAAD will be part of the Rock the Vote bus tour on several of its September and October dates, including its stop at the first presidential debate on Oct. 1 in Miami.

"Young people have an unprecedented opportunity to be the swing vote in this election," said Jehmu Greene, president of Rock the Vote. "We plan to mobilize 20 million new-generation voters to go to the polls in November, and the bus tour will be a catalyst for bringing young people together to talk about the issues at stake."

"The goal of the 'I DO' campaign is to give people a voice and to tell the stories of our lives," Garry added. "We're bringing these spots to the LGBT community and to young people along the Rock the Vote bus tour so that they too will understand the importance of making their voices heard."

Nearly 100 "I DO" contest entries were submitted by an array of gay and straight filmmakers from more than 20 states. The winner was selected by a panel of celebrity judges, among them comedian Margaret Cho, writer/director Kevin Williamson ("Scream") and producer Craig Zadan ("Chicago"). The "I DO" campaign is supported by community partners that include PlanetOut, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Lambda Legal, the National Organization for Women (NOW), and nearly a dozen other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and allied groups. Complete lists of community partners and celebrity judges are available at <http://www.glaad.org>.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of people and events in the media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Alberta Health & Wellness reports that Edmonton (followed by Calgary) has the highest number of newly infected individuals. Approximately 17,000 Canadians are not aware that they are infected.



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To Reform Or To Deform: That Is The Question



Editorial by Mike Schiller

Lately the media chorus has, as usual, been singing its usual song—the song of “blame the FBI, blame the CIA” which it’s been singing for about 3 years now. What startles me is the fact that some people have apparently forgotten the song — it made #1 on the NewsLies Airplay & Sales chart in the weeks

immediately after the September 11th attacks. It re-entered the chart with “greatest gainer—airplay” a few months later while congress was holding hearings on the issue. It resurfaced yet again when several newspapers ran headlines with the revelation that Bush had been warned about the attacks beforehand. Of course, this song has been to #1 more times than Janet Jackson’s Rhythm Nation. It reached the top of the NewsLies charts most recently when questions surfaced about why Bush lied about Iraq’s nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, and when an independent commission was set up to investigate the government handled pre-September 11th data.

Just to be sure the song got into people’s heads, they even went as far as to call the investigations “Intelligence Failure Investigations”. These words of course carefully selected to instill in people the pre-conceived notion that it was indeed the Intelligence Community’s failure, not the White House’s. That way when every “new” investigation came

up with the same answer, it would be believable. After all, if an “Intelligence Failure” investigation concludes that the “Intelligence Failed”, it just sounds SORIGHT how could anyone not believe it?

What makes this song more annoying this time around than it was any of the countless other times the Bush administration tried to pound it into people’s heads, is the fact that the September 11th commission is claiming the song is new, previously unreleased, never before heard. That is what makes this extremely annoying.

Imagine how the public would react if P. Diddy were to claim he had been the original songwriter of “Boogie Wonderland”. He’d lose all his credibility, and never work again. Now the September 11th commission is taking the exact same pathetic excuse first uttered by Condoleezza Rice and saying “look we repackaged this, so it’s new, original, we created this”.

Please, spare me. Let’s refresh the facts, the ones which aren’t talked about much on

television, but can be verified by anyone who cares enough to do some real research of their own:

The CIA and the FBI repeatedly warned Bush that Bin Laden was going to strike in the U.S. They shared detailed information about their findings, and requested the resources necessary to disrupt the attack before it happened. Bush refused to grant them any further resources, and warned them not to agitate the Taliban because it might interfere with a private company’s plan to build an oil pipeline through Afghanistan (a pipeline which was completed around the same time Bush said Bin Laden was “no longer a concern”).

As September 11th drew closer, the intelligence community again warned Bush, and a choice had to be made: Shut down the airlines and protect lives, or keep the airlines operating and protect the commerce made possible by air travel. Money is, of course, always more important in Bush’s judgment. Not that the economy matters much to him, but the mega-rich wealthiest 1% has diverse investments, and the

stock values of those companies are very, very, very important to Bush.

So the terrorists attacked, and Bush personally failed to put human life ahead of profits, and of course he and his corporate cronies made out like bandits when thousands of corporations used September 11th as an excuse to lay off hundreds of thousands of workers, citing “economic devastation” as their reason, despite posting record profits. It was not long before the layoffs had created enough phony profits to boost the perception of profitability just barely high enough to make it safe for people with massive stock holdings to unload their portfolios so they can retire in style while 99% of Americans suffered.

Of course he is blaming the FBI and the CIA. They angered him by presenting their findings to him in the first place. They told him things he didn’t want to hear. Bush expects them to bring him cookies and doughnuts... not to create a paper trail of evidence, which can later be used to showcase Bush’s blatant

disregard for the well being of the average American!

So now we must discuss the final subject... “Reform”. Has experience taught us nothing? Over the past four years, every time that word has been used in legislation, it was used to disguise the fallacies in the legislation’s purpose. What is sold to us as “a change for the better” is usually somebody’s personal agenda wrapped in shiny paper with a pretty bow tie. That proved true when our nation’s education system was “reformed”. It was true when they “reformed” the bankruptcy laws to favor... banks. It was true when they tried to promote what they call “tort reform” (which is really meant to erode the judiciary’s ability to protect the public from institutional harm). I would caution strongly against any legislation, which is promoted with terms like “reform” or “deregulation”.

Again, I’d like to stress that the entire song and dance, which blames the FBI and the CIA, is blatantly false. So why are they promoting the notion that these agencies need to be “reformed”?

Why hasn’t anyone publicly questioned the fact that none of these conclusions actually originated from the September 11th commission, but rather from virtually every single press conference held by the very administration officials who not only refused to act on the CIA and FBI’s intelligence, but obstructed them from taking further action themselves?

To date, the only truly faulty reports to come out of the FBI and CIA were the ones pertaining to Iraq, which of course came at the Bush administration’s insistence, and with the administration’s full knowledge that such reports might be generated at the expense of truth. So, if congress were to take any action on the matter of “reform”, the last thing in the world it should do is suggest further politicization of our nation’s intelligence apparatus by designating a cabinet position to oversee them. I understand that the people want to be able to hold someone accountable, but when was the last time the Bush administration held itself accountable for

anything? An additional cabinet position would only make that problem worse. If anything, these two agencies should be given more independence, so that they can operate with less political interference from the White House. They should never be required to pander to a political appointee whose decisions may be influenced by a desire to please the President who appointed them, who would of course have a desire to please corporate campaign contributors. Of course, the chorus will keep singing the song “believe us, believe us, it’s the intelligence community’s fault, and the way to solve the problem is to further consolidate power and control to the White House, so they can overstep congress and do whatever they want!” If we buy this legislative product our intelligence agencies will not be reformed, they will be deformed.

I hope the American people and congress have enough sense by now, to know when it is time to turn the radio off.

This repetitive, deafening song is not a solution, it is not creative, it is not new, — it is, essentially, the Macarena all over again.

THE TERRY FOX RUN

Sunday, September 19, 2004

The Terry Fox Foundation's mission is to maintain the principles of Terry Fox while raising money for cancer research through the annual Terry Fox Run. Run, walk, jog, donate and planned gifts.



Please continue your visit at our site to learn more about Terry and how his story has made such an impact on millions of people. Please contact us if you have any questions about participating in your country.

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Truths

A guy walked into a bar one day and said to the barman, "Give me six double vodkas." The barman says, "Wow! You must have had one hell of a day." "Yes, I've just found out my older brother is gay." The next day, the same guy came into the bar and asked for the same drinks. When the bartender asked what the problem was today the answer came back, "I've just found out that my younger brother is gay too!" On the third day, the guy came into the bar and ordered another six double vodkas. The bartender said, "Jesus! Doesn't anybody in your family like women?" The man downed the first drink and shook his head, "Yeah, my wife!"

Minor Complications

Two hobbits walk into a bar where one of them picks up a barfly. They take her to a local motel; the first hobbit goes into the motel room while the other waits outside. Once the door closes, the hobbit on the outside hears strange noises through the door, "I can't do it, I can't do it, I CAN'T DO IT!" In the morning, the second hobbit asks the first, "How did it go?" The first one answers, "It was embarrassing. I simply couldn't do it." The second hobbit shook his head, "Manhood problems, eh?" "No. I couldn't get on the bed!"

The Line

A lawyer is standing in a long line at the box office. Suddenly, he feels a pair of hands kneading his shoulders, back, and neck. The lawyer turns around. "What the hell do you think you're doing?" "I'm a chiropractor, and I'm just keeping in practice while I'm waiting in line." "Well, I'm a lawyer, but you don't see me screwing the guy in front of me, do you?"

Church

So, a gay man goes to church one Sunday. As the offering basket is passed, he drops in a big wad of bills. When the basket gets back to the minister, he notices the wad of money and announces: "Someone here was very generous in the offering today. I would like to ask the person who gave this large amount of money to please stand."

The gay man stood up. The minister continued, "Well, sir, we certainly do appreciate your generosity. And to show our appreciation, I'm going to let you select your three favorite hymns." "Okay," the gay man replied, "I'll take him, him and him!"

My Clothes!

An old man and women owned a farm. The old man died and the woman couldn't handle the farm by herself so she was going to hire someone to help her. The only job applicants were the town drunk and a new guy in town, who was gay. So she chose the gay guy; they worked together for a week or so and got the farm back together. The old woman was pleased with the work and worn out, so she decided to give herself and her hired hand the night off. Both went out to dinner, she with her friends and he with his. But when the old woman got home, he wasn't there. When he finally came in, she told him, "I'm your boss so you have to do what I tell you." The gay guy said, "Okay." So she said, "Take my shoes off," so he did. She said, "Take my stockings off," so he did. Then she said, "Take my dress off," and he did. She said, "Take my bra off," so he did. Then she said, "Take my panties off," so he did. Finally, she said, "You leave this house wearing my clothes one more time and you're fired."

My Ass

There was an old man named Bozo, and all he had was a female donkey. One day he wins the lottery and gets \$50,000. He doesn't know what to do with his money, so he decides to spend a night in a five star hotel. He asks for the finest room and starts going up the stairs with his female donkey. The manager sees him and asks where he's going with his donkey. "Anywhere I go, she goes." "I'm sorry, sir," said the manager, "but you can't take the donkey upstairs. Leave it down here with us and we'll take good care of her." So Bozo goes up to his room and opens the door. Everything is made of gold; there is a table full of food, and a huge television. He doesn't want to ruin anything so he takes his raggedy coat off and sleeps on the floor. The next morning the manager comes up to the room and asks how his night was. "Great!" replied Bozo. "How much do I have to pay?" he asks. "One thousand dollars for the food." "But I haven't touched the food." "It was right there, so you should have. Two thousand dollars for the TV." "But I didn't even know how to turn the damn thing on!" "It was there, so you should have. Five thousand for sleeping on the bed." "But I slept on the floor!" "It was there. Your total is eight thousand dollars." "You owe me ten thousand dollars for screwing my donkey." "But sir, I didn't screw your donkey." "It was there. You should have!"

567-5309

A guy dials his home and a strange woman answers. The guy says, "Who is this?" "This is the maid," answers the woman. "We don't have a maid," says the man. The woman says, "I was hired this morning by the lady of the house." The man says, "Well, this is her husband. Is she there?" The woman replies, "She is upstairs in the bed room with someone who I figured was her husband." The guy is fuming and says to the maid, "Listen, would you like to make \$50,000?" The maid says, "what will I have to do?" The man tells her, "I want you to get my gun from the desk, and shoot the witch and the jerk she's with." The maid puts the phone down; the man hears footsteps and then two gunshots. The maid comes back to the phone, "what do I do with the bodies?" The man says, "throw them in the swimming pool." Puzzled, the maid answers, "But you don't have a pool." A long pause and the man says, "is this 567-5309?"

Pun

One day a teacher went into her classroom and saw the word, "penis" written in small letters on the chalkboard. She erased it and went on with the day's lesson. The next day, she came in and saw the same word on the chalkboard, but a little bit bigger. She erased it and went on with her lesson. Each of the next several days, the teacher would come in to find "penis" on the board, a little larger each time. She went in one morning, expecting to find it again, but instead the chalkboard read: "The more you rub it, the bigger it gets."

Getting Weighed

Joe took his blind date to the carnival. "What would you like to do first, Jim?" asked Joe. I want to get weighed," he said. They ambled over to the weight guesser. He guessed 120 pounds. He got on the scale; it read 117 and he won a prize. Next, the couple went on the Ferris Wheel. When the ride was over, Joe again asked Jim what he would like to do. "I want to get weighed," he said. Back to the weight guesser they went. Since they had been there before, he guessed his correct weight, and Joe lost his dollar. The couple walked around the carnival and again he asked where to next. "I want to get weighed," he responded. By this time, Joe figured he was really weird and took him home early, dropping him off with a handshake. Jim's roommate, Laura, asked him about the blind date, "How'd it go?" Jim responded, "Oh, Waura, it was wousy."

CALL FOR CHANGE TO THE IAC

In the aftermath of the criticism of the 2004 International AIDS Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) calls for fundamental and bold change to future conferences.

Why:

- These bi-annual conferences have essentially turned into drug company trade shows, funded and controlled by the pharmaceutical industry.
- Real debate is not integrated into the conference program; therefore no real unity is generated.
- Advocacy events are excluded from the official conference program.
- Conference registration fees are exorbitantly high and severely limit participation from resource poor countries.
- NGOs, the primary leadership in the world right

now, are marginalized and relegated to a secondary role-forced to shout from the audience to be heard.

- The bi-annual conference is set to next take place in Toronto, Canada, a resource rich country.

Call for change:

- No drug company funding. The conference should be funded as a joint venture of the World Bank, the Global Fund, the World Health Organization, the European Union and the United Nations. This would eliminate the stranglehold big pharma has on the conference.
- Reduction in registration fees for participants from resource poor countries, as well as funding and support of events that significantly include non-registered participants (such as the Global Village in Bangkok).
- Expansion of the role of

NGOs in the conference program and design.

- Large, open debates on issues affecting the global AIDS community.

- Integration of advocacy events into the official conference program.

- Conference to be regularly held in resource poor countries in order to mobilize global awareness.

- Concrete resolutions and action plans generated at conference conclusion.

The global AIDS community must take command and control from the pharmaceutical industry and DRIVE THE WAR ON AIDS. While the world's largest AIDS conference remains bank-rolled by the drug industry, matters of life and death will continue to be based on profit margins rather than public

health.

If we are to turn the tide on AIDS, these vital gatherings of world leaders and activists must include real debate, discussion and action. The current design leaves us divided as we all return to our local communities.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation calls for bold change for the International AIDS Conference in Toronto. We must create a new gathering that generates one UNSTOPPABLE force that can be sustained to fight and stop AIDS after the closing ceremonies.

WE ARE IN A RACE WITH THIS VIRUS. THERE IS NO TIME TO WAIT.

Terri M. Ford
Director of Advocacy - Public Affairs
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The World's Best Kept Secret

By: Jeffrey Lee Williams, Junior

Dwayne and I met through the wonderful world of the Internet when he was twenty six and I was at the tender age of nineteen. We had been chatting online through America Online for several weeks before we decided to meet up one afternoon shortly before his trip to Florida to meet with family. Dwayne and I met at the Manhattan Mall on Sixth Avenue on the sixth floor outside the Barnes and Noble. It was a very hot summer day but my insecurities about my body prohibited me to wear limited clothes like a tank top and shorts. So, instead I wore a t-shirt with an opened button shirt over it; over the buttoned shirt was a jeans

jacket and over the jeans jacket was a jeans vest. I also wore baseball gloves because I was extremely afraid of germs in my late teens, an illness that I only recently cured.

When Dwayne approached me, I knew that it was him even though I had never seen a picture of him before. Through nine weeks of chatting, we managed to avoid sending pictures of each other. I learned of his reasoning later in our relationship but my excuse was that I was afraid of what may eventually become of my picture had it ever been broadcasted online. When he walked over to me grinning while simultaneously emphasizing his gorgeous dimples and beautiful teeth, I noticed that he had an equally as beautiful masculine build that he was hiding under his gray loose fitting t-shirt. After several quick seconds of drooling and gazing at him, we finally met; shook hands and introduced ourselves to each other. It was my first Internet connection and would have been my first {authorized} homosexual encounter so I was noticeable

shaken at our first meeting. I even choked during our introduction. "Hello, I'm Jeff...I'm happy to finally...I really like you...I'm sorry." Those were my first set of what would be many jumbled words and sentences he would hear from me.

Moments after our meeting, Dwayne and I walked into the bookstore and browsed the fiction section briefly discussing our favorite books and authors. At the time, I was reading the old classic "Anna Karenina" by Leo Tolstoy. He was reading Howard Stern's autobiography, a book I had recently read as well so I felt a sense of comfort. I figured that whenever the situation became uncomfortable between us, I could mention something that Howard wrote and then Dwayne and I would be back on the same page. I truly and honestly feared looking or appearing too amateurish and childish in front of him and I did my best to seem like a mature nineteen year old college student who, though was a virgin, was mature enough to engage in any adult situation. Twenty minutes passed and then Dwayne and I headed to

the Howard Johnson's where he wanted to treat me to lunch.

My heart began to palpitate as I tried to think of reasons why I couldn't eat there. One of the main reasons, which I didn't discuss with Dwayne, was that Howard Johnson's was one of my mother's favorite restaurants. She had just eaten there the day before with her co-workers. Another reason why I didn't want to go with him was that I had a genuine fear of eating at public restaurants because of my deeply rooted insecurities and my paranoia that either everyone was watching me and waiting for me to make a fool of myself or that the cooks would cough or sneeze in the food. I know I was a mess back then. When we were seated in the eatery, my nerves grew even more exaggerated as the place was packed with the afternoon rush crowd. I immediately began to pace the restaurant with my eyes searching for anyone who would know me and could report to my mother where I was and describe who the unidentified man with me was. Moments later, I calmed a little and

Dwayne and I began to talk some more about our lives and what we wanted to do with our futures. I told him that I wasn't sure what I wanted to do yet but that I had narrowed it down between a writer of screenplays and dramas or a child psychologist. My major in college was psychology so it seemed fitting that I would want to get into that field.

When the waiter took our orders, Dwayne told me that I was welcomed to order anything I wanted and that it was all on him. I had the opportunity to order whatever I wanted but I just ordered a salad because I had another fear of gaining weight and, besides, I didn't want to give him the impression that I was a huge eater and make myself look unattractive. I wanted him from first glance and I tried with all my might to keep myself well above normal to allow him to see a side of me that was very hard to be. After lunch, which took about an hour and forty five minutes, we walked over to the Virgin Megastore on Broadway in New York's famed Times Square. While browsing the DVD section, Dwayne explained to me that he does see women on the side to, letting me know right from jump street that he does not exclusively date men. I thought that there was nothing wrong with that. I chalked it all up to his being Chinese and Jamaican, two cultures that do not take kindly to homosexuality very well.

After setting the record straight with me, he also dealt me another blow by telling me that he was a father of two twins, Alex and Nick. They were at the babysitter's waiting for him to pick them up. I didn't know what to say or do. I was shocked but I didn't want anything to possibly ruin what could have been a great and long lasting relationship—at least in my head. It was too much for me to take but I couldn't let him know that, I had to prove to him that I was mature

enough to handle it but inside I was torn, conflicted and confused. Should I, a nineteen year old virgin who was young and naïve, pursue a relationship with a man that would always have someone to place before me? I contemplated that question for hours, even after we separated and came to the conclusion that made me see him again the next weekend. After Dwayne mentioned his kids to me, he received a beep on his pager to call the sitter and come for the kids soon. Ten minutes later, we walked back to his minivan, the major tip-off that a man or woman has children, and made plans to meet again the next Friday.

On the platform of the train, I began to put two and two together. I had never seen a picture of him before meeting him, when he answered the phone while I was standing in front of him; he immediately walked away from me; but not before telling me to hush. He had two children and I assumed a wife since I saw a wedding band on his finger as he gripped the steering wheel. He made it very clear to me that I was not to tell anyone about us, including my friends and any family I may have been open to. He demanded that I not act feminine around him or even dress in a way that may appear homosexual. Though I was new at this, I knew one thing for sure: Dwayne was on the down-low! I knew what that term meant because I had read about it in a gay magazine and I had overheard conversations about a cousin of mine who lead that life for over twenty years. I knew that I was in for a rough road but it was one that I was more than willing to take. I still wanted Dwayne, down-low or not.

The next weekend, I learned more about Dwayne's home life. I learned that my suspicion of him being married

was in fact true as there was a picture of him and his wife on their wedding day above the doorway in the living room of their Canarsie apartment in Brooklyn. As he was showing me around the place, I thought to myself that I was committing a crime; I was coming in between a man and a woman, a couple which was happily married with children. I couldn't believe what I was doing but it was something that I couldn't help. I knew that if it wasn't me, it would have been someone else. He showed me his children's room and the bedroom that he shared with his wife and the bed that we would eventually make love in. After the tour, I sat on the couch and watched a little MTV to calm my nerves a little. I didn't really move at all and when we spoke to each other, I didn't want him to look me in the face as I had horrible acne along with very sensitive skin. I was ashamed that I would have an outbreak right there and that I would look unattractive to him. I didn't want that. After about an hour of watching television, Dwayne turned off the TV and walked me into his bedroom and asked me if I was ready.

After the sex was over, we laid on the bed for a few moments to revel in the moment. It took me some time to realize that I had finally done it. I had known what so many other boys had known. I knew what it felt like to be penetrated and boy did it hurt. The pain was worth it though. It was worth it to become a member of the gay sex club. I held my card with pride. Twenty five minutes after we had finished, Dwayne made the calls to his wife again reassuring himself that she was at work. When he had that reassurance, he pulled the sheets and pillow cases off of the bed and threw them into the washing machine. When we were done, he drove me to the Rockaway Avenue train station where I took the train

home reveling in what I had finally done.

Our next sexual encounter was our last. We had had several severe fights afterwards about where we were taking our "relationship." There were places that we were restricted in going and I was also being restricted from calling him on his cell phone or at work. It was beginning to way in on me the fact that I couldn't tell anyone, particularly my friends, that I had finally met someone and lost my virginity to him. I wanted to tell the world but he wanted me to keep quiet. He told me that he had put me in a dangerous position. He said that I could single-handedly ruin his marriage and his life and that he wasn't going to let me do that. Dwayne was always gentle to me in both his words and his actions, but now they were growing harsh. He wanted to control what I did, said and who I did and said it to. I was so confused. I went from sad to happy to sad all over again. All the fights derived from his being on the "down-low." He told me that normally he would have already moved on to another man but he thought that somehow, somehow I would have been different. Still to this day I have no idea what he meant by that. I knew that I wanted him and I know that he wanted me but the demons that he held inside and the lies that he told his family was eating away at him. I told him that I was in the same boat, without the wife and kids, because I was in the closet myself. Dwayne then told me that he was far different from because at the end of the day, I was a gay male who only enjoyed sexual encounters from other men.

Continued on pg 27

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The 13th Annual HIV AIDS Walk is a partnership initiative. The monies raised from this fund raising event will be used to provide educational and support programs offered by HIV Edmonton and Living Positive - Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society.

For more information contact the Walk for Life office at HIV Edmonton,
(780) 488-5742, ext 223 or 240 or email: events@hivedmonton.com



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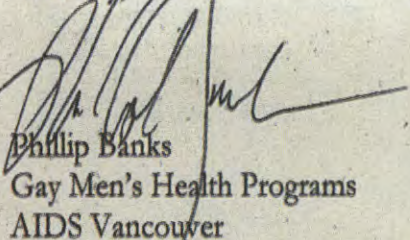
Dear Dennis Cambly

On behalf of AIDS Vancouver and our team of national partners, I am writing to thank you and your publication for running "How Do You Know What You Know", Canada's first national HIV prevention campaign for gay men.

To date, the response to our campaign has been overwhelmingly positive. We would not have been able to reach so many gay men without your support. The non-profit discount you provided allowed us to reach even more people with the campaign's messages.

We will be conducting another national campaign in one year's time and look forward to working with you once again. Thanks again.

Sincerely,


Phillip Banks
Gay Men's Health Programs
AIDS Vancouver

"The World's Best..."
Continued from pg 23

He was different, because he was a man who enjoyed sex with men and women but never even identified himself as bisexual.

I thought that he was just as confused as I was but I knew that I would do whatever it took to stay with him. I knew that I had come in between a husband and a wife; between a father and his children but I couldn't worry about that. I wanted the pleasure that I had felt for the seven weeks that we were together. When I used to travel with him in his minivan, sometimes ducking in the back seat, I would think that this is the family vehicle that I was corrupting. I felt really bad and for the first time in many months, I felt that good old Catholic guilt I was raised knowing all too well. I was the other man and that didn't really sit well with me even though I was willing to ignore my feelings. After seven weeks

of a rocky relationship, it was over. Indeed it lasted a lot longer than I had imagined it too. I retreated into my bedroom for three weeks after we called it off and reminisced in my mind what we had been through and how good he made me feel. I remembered caressing his chest and making out with him on his bed. I remembered his gentle touch as he rubbed my shoulders and I remembered his tongue as it made its way across my chest. As I remembered more about the passion that we shared, I reminded myself that it would never ever have worked out because of his situation. He was married, with children and furthermore, on the down low. I would never be number one in his life. Although I would never forget him as my first love, I made a conscious decision to never date someone on the down-low again.

What is the "Down Low" or "DL"? Men who discreetly have sex with other men while

in sexual relationships with women are said to be on the "down low" (or "dl" for short). Often these men do not consider themselves gay or even bisexual and their female partners are not aware that they have sex with other men, thus the term "down low" or "in hiding". There are many factors that may attribute to a man that would live this kind of life in secret. Many black men who live this life do because in the black community being gay is not widely accepted, in fact, being gay or even bisexual is seen as demeaning or emasculating in some way. The fear of ostracizing and harassment at the idea of "coming out" force men to live in hiding and deny who they really are, even though they may not wish to live that way. Many men enjoy the carefree sex they are getting from other men on the side. Many do not wish to address the fact that they may be gay or bisexual and many, sadly, do not use protection either. They feel that to use a condom is admitting what he

is doing. Many think that to use a condom he is in some way acknowledging what he is doing and many men are just not willing to do that. Thankfully, Dwayne was not one of those people. Since men on the "down-low" do not consider themselves gay or bisexual, they feel no need to disclose their activities.

That fact attests to the high numbers of HIV cases within the African-American community, especially among straight black women, that has brought attention to this phenomenon. A growing number of people feel that men on the down low who have unprotected sex with other men pose a health risk to their girlfriends or wives and fiancés.

At its core a man on the down low is no different than a closeted homosexual man, but men on the down low would fight that fact to the very end denouncing homosexuality and in many cases probably condemning it.

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NEW "SERIALIZED" NOVEL OFFERS SUSTENANCE TO THOSE STARVING FOR ALTERNATIVE CONTENT

Vancouver, BC - Vancouver, BC based Tidelines Publishing, an independent publishing house, recently announce the launch of the serialized e-book Waterboys, now available online at www.tidelines.ca. A fictional account of what happens when three gay friends become roommates, Waterboys is a groundbreaking episodic series that has been described as having the romantic appeal of Sex And The City and the zaniness of Malcolm In The Middle.

From their taste in men to their choice of clothing, from pick-up lines to break-ups, from the

adventures that bring them together to the rifts that come between them, the Waterboys show that family can be a matter of choice - or fate.

While Waterboys started off in Vancouver, running in the city's alternative bi-weekly, Xtra! West Magazine, it has quickly grown to attract an international fan base. Old fans and new will be pleased to hear that Author Rob Gray, has re-released the episodes with unseen content that had been previously edited out due to space issues in the magazine. For the cost of \$10.00 USD, Waterboys ad-

dicts can now get back to the series from its conception.

Tidelines Publishing is adding an interesting twist to how e-books are delivered online. Written in a serialized novel format, much like Thackeray and Dickens did in the early 1800s, each episode has cliffhangers and an anticipation factor built in.

The eBook will be delivered in true serialized novel form, with a bit of technology thrown in. For 12 weeks, customers will receive one episode per week emailed to their personal email account. Explains Gray, "Waterboys is serialized like a

TV show. The episodes were written and meant to be read over time and piece by piece. Sometimes waiting is part of the reading. In the world of Waterboys, creating a sense of anticipation and longing is a good thing."

The Waterboys series is widely popular with gays and non-gays alike because of the intimate, character-driven, ongoing storyline. The stories are about wonderfully flawed people who survive and take leaps in a sometimes broken, sometimes circus-like world - struggles most people can relate to.

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GLAF Announces Team DC as Host for 2005 Conference

After submissions from several cities, and a lengthy review process, the Gay & Lesbian Athletics Foundation (GLAF) has chosen Washington D.C. as the site for its 2005 International Gay & Lesbian Athletics Conference.

Team DC is the umbrella group of GLBT sports clubs in the Washington, DC area, and submitted the proposal to host GLAF's 2005 Conference slated for March 11-13, 2005.

Brent Minor, the president of Team DC, said, "Team DC is excited about the opportunity to host the third annual International Gay & Lesbian Athletics Conference. We have a thriving GLBT sports community here in the Washington, D.C. area, so it only seemed natural that they would choose to come here."

Minor also recognized that Team DC's values were in line with GLAF's, "We wholeheartedly support the goals of the Gay & Lesbian Athletics Foundation to address the issues of homophobia as they relate to sports at all levels from professionals to the recreational participant."

The newly refined mission for GLAF states that GLAF "promotes acceptance and visibility of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered

(GLBT) athletics community through education, support networks, positive role models and advocacy."

Team DC will handle all the logistics of hosting the Conference, while GLAF will continue to organize the content for the Conference and work with Team DC to bring renowned keynotes and panelists to speak as they have at the last two Conferences.

Mac Chinsomboon, GLAF Executive Director, noted that, "The last two Conferences have had such contagious energy, that we're eager to bring the discussion and networking opportunities to another community."

Minor added: "hosting the GLAF Conference is not only a huge honor for Team DC, but it will help raise the awareness of the large number of GLBT sport clubs in the greater Washington, DC area. While many gay and lesbian people may have been uncomfortable to participate in sports growing up, we are proud to show them how many opportunities there are now and to how to get involved."

Chinsomboon echoed this sentiment: "The conference isn't just for 'jocks' but it's for everyone and it's about growing up and having positive role models, mentors,

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and heroes. Could we save lives in the process and at least make the coming out process less painful and less shameful? Sports is a powerful force in our culture!"

GLAF's last two conferences, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge and Boston City Hall, had speakers including Olympic athletes, retired professional athletes, health practitioners, authors, representatives from ESPN, NCAA, US Olympic Committee and others from around the world. GLAF has a star-studded Advisory Board, among the them are

tennis legend, Billie Jean King; former NFL players, Dave Kopay and Esera Tuaolo; former Major League Baseball player, Billy Bean; Olympian gold medalists, Holly Metcalf and Mark Tewksbury; former National Baseball League umpire, Dave Pallone; author of Jocks II, Dan Woog; the still competing four-time Triple Ironman World Champion, Christopher Bergland, and others. For more information about GLAF's past conferences, the newly launched athlete scholarship fund, and streaming video of past keynotes, please visit: www.GLAF.org.



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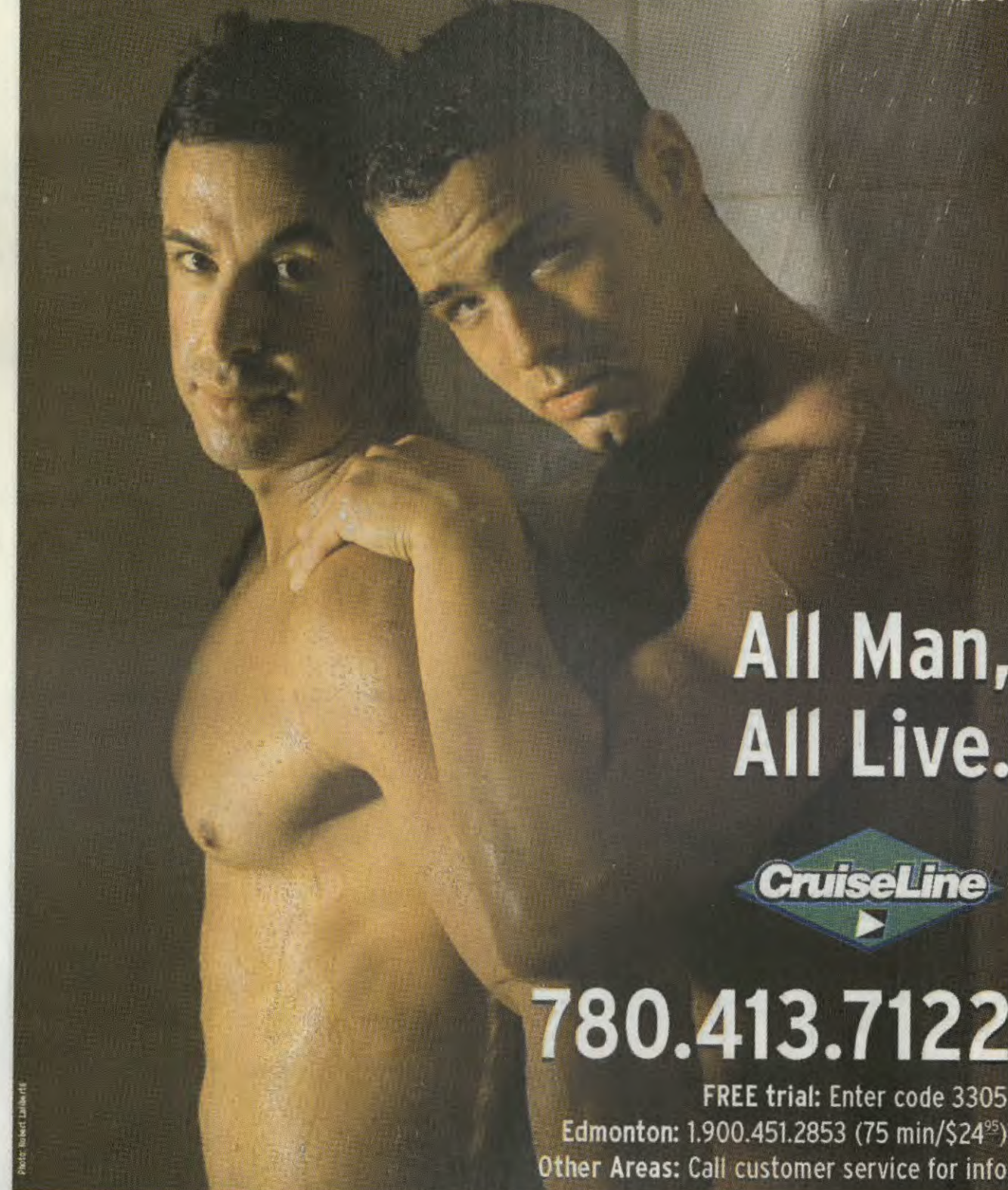
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